

MEMORANDUM FOR: The DCI

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Herewith is Milton S. Eisenhower's new book, *The Wine is Bitter: The United States and Latin America*, published by Doubleday. It is primarily a history of his advice and assistance to his brother, President Eisenhower, on Latin American matters, including trips to Latin America and contacts with its leaders.

3. Two episodes post-dating the Eisenhower Administration are also treated and contain references to CIA as follows:

a. The Bay of Pigs episode was "our worst planned, most capriciously managed action--and our most humiliating defeat," in the entire history of the U. S. (p. 272). He recounts the episode from "second hand information" (p. 269), chiefly newspaper accounts, magazine accounts, and numerous conversations (p. 271 n.). He says that President Eisenhower had no invasion plans, but approved CIA organizing, clothing, and training the "disparate" Cuban refugee groups; and that early in January 1961 planning went forward under President Kennedy, prompted by the report of Soviet jet fighters destined for Castro. Two officials in CIA are mentioned--Richard M. Bissell, Jr., "a CIA deputy director," who became responsible for the operation, and General Charles F. Cabell, "another deputy director," with whom Bissell consulted at the moment of the landings (p. 271).

b. The Tractors for Freedom Committee, on which Milton Eisenhower served in May-June 1961, became "one of the most cunning and muddled incidents in the history of inter-American affairs" (p. 272). His part in it involved "the most exasperating, frustrating, and enervating six weeks of my life" (p. 295). At one point, on 19 June 1961, he states that Joe Dodge had a call from Allen Dulles, head of CIA, recommending that a "last chance" cable to Castro would help to expose him in a most dramatic way (p. 292). Such a cable was sent, on June 23, and was followed by Castro's final reaction of the tractor offer.

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

Attachment

cc: D/DCI w/o attachment
Ex. Dir. w/o attachment